

Board of Health, Town of Monson

August 5, 2021

Regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 4:05.

Board members present were John (Beau) Schneider, Chairperson, Mary Hull, Nakita Sullivan and Larisa Kutrov. Elaine Kurasinski was not present due to an illness. Others present were Jamie Farnham, Finance Director, Jennifer Wolowicz, Town Administrator and Brian Van Dam, Dan Higgins, and Amias Cullender from Republic Services.

Republic Trash/Recycling - Dan Higgins reviewed two possible trash programs that Republic and the BOH are committed to discussing during the one-year contract extension just agreed upon at this meeting. With any new trash program, there are many details that need to be considered. BOH and Republic restated their desire to begin that process as soon as possible. Of the two discussed at this meeting, 'Pay as You Throw' and 'Automated Collection', only 'Pay as You Throw' could realistically be implemented during the one-year extension because, for 'Automated Collection', specialized trucks are necessary, and Republic will not have them before sometime next year. Nakita Sullivan expressed the general satisfaction with the bulky pickup program and asked if a change in the trash program would affect that. Dan Higgins acknowledged that there could potentially be some considerations, primarily due to the type of equipment used but restated Republic's intention to retain a bulky pickup option in any new trash program. A brief discussion ensued regarding recycling and the ongoing challenges for residential customers as well as for the industry. When discussing the options presented, Jamie Farnham recommended the Board choose Proposal A which is more conservative and to stay with Option one for the recycling as we are recently experiencing a credit instead of a charge. Dan Higgins stated that when the town can transfer over to Pay as You Throw, it will create a reduction in waste and therefore the rate will go down. The more recycling the town can do, the more money it will save the residents down the road. Jennifer Wolowicz would like to plan a Town Hall Trash Talk in early February. She would like a program that will work universally for all the residents. Elaine Kurasinski put together a Power Point slide show for Republic Services and wasn't able to present it at the meeting. Dan Higgins requested that Elaine forward it to Republic Services for review. Dan talked about automated system for waste removal and recycling and by converting to single stream using a 96-gallon totter for recycling. By converting over it will create financial savings, a safer working environment for the drivers as well as more efficiency in service. Based on this past year during COVID the recycling has become more valuable.

John Schneider made a motion to approve the 1-year contract extension with Republic Services as discussed with Option A. Mary Hull second, all in favor.

Nakita Sullivan made a motion to stay with current recycling program, Option 1. Larisa Kutrov second, all in favor.

Nakita Sullivan stated that if we switch over to single stream recycling it will cut down on the number of violations. John Schneider would like to know when the trash and recycling route will be on GPS for the residents to see where the trucks are at on their daily routes. Dan Higgins stated that the GPS is only being used for the Commercial accounts.

Also, discussed by BOH, after our Republic representatives had departed, was to revisit the issue of online participation at BOH meetings by BOH member(s). This was prompted by the absence of Elaine today, who possibly could have at least monitored this most important meeting. The topic was tabled, to be on the next agenda

Meeting adjourned at 6:00PM.

Beau Schneider, Chairperson Beau Schneider

Mary Hull Mary Hull

Elaine Kurasinski \_\_\_\_\_

Nakita Sullivan Nakita Sullivan

Larisa Kutrov Larisa Kutrov